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Chicopee Register

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A Halloween to remember: 'Trunk-n-Treat' initiative a success

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Creating a sense of normalcy, spreading love and bringing happiness to the city's youth were at the forefront of the "Halloween Curbside Pickup Trunk-n-Treat" initiative that occurred last Saturday evening in the parking lot of the Chicopee Elks Lodge on Granby Road.

The Halloween celebration was organized by members of "Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease," a Chicopee-based group that coordinates a variety of community events and cleanups throughout the year.

With approval from the city's Health Department and

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TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTO

[L to R] Owen Godin and Eric Lafrenaye displayed their Halloween spirit last Saturday.

Chicopee goes blue for Biden

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Democracy is alive and well in Chicopee, and the 66.4% voter turnout that the city reported following the Nov. 3 presidential election went in favor of former Vice President Joe Biden.

While the nation may have to wait indefinitely to discover who won the election, the results were clear in Chicopee. When all was said and done, 56.36% of the city's voters cast ballots in favor of Biden, the Democratic presidential nominee.

On Tuesday evening, City Clerk Keith Rattell made public that Biden earned 14,452 votes in Chicopee. President Donald Trump, the Republican candidate, received 10,622, or 41.42% of the local vote.

Jo Jorgensen of the Libertarian Party received an additional 397 votes while Howie Hawkins of the Green Party pulled in 173 votes. The two candidates com-

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Education Assoc. advocates for paras under FMLA benefits

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – Chicopee Education Association President Laura Demakis used the Oct. 21 School Committee as a platform to laud the work that has been performed by the district's educational support professionals (ESPs) over the past two months.

She also asked the district to look into changing local requirements under the state's Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA) so that ESPs will be eligible for them, too. FMLA enables employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave without compromising their jobs.

Demakis took to the podium in an effort to convey to the board the sacrifices that Chicopee's ESPs, or paraprofessionals, have made during the current school year. First, she outlined the tremendous effort that the position demands.

"In this crazy COVID moment, they are being asked amazing things to do; things that they've never been asked to do before," said Demakis. "They're changing classrooms, they're changing teachers; some of them even went and got an emergency license to be able to teach, and so much more. They're just stepping up so much."

Demakis believes that paraprofessionals have gone above and beyond in 2020. Their paychecks, however, do not reflect their true value.

"Unfortunately, they are paid the least, and, sometimes, they aren't necessarily appreciated as they should be, but they have the same issues and concerns that we all have," she said. "What they don't have is the ability to make a choice for

See FMLA page 7

COA November programming hones in health management

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

CHICOPEE – In a year defined by physical distancing, the Chicopee Council on Aging has made a tremendous effort to connect local seniors to critical resources and to each other.

The doors of the RiverMills Center remain closed to the public, but COA employees inside of the RiverMills Center on West Main Street continue to launch programming that reaches its targeted audience.

A diverse selection of virtual activities is on the schedule for November. Much of the programming hones in on healthy eating and lifestyle management.

Chief among these online offerings is the "Let's Talk About Diabetes" Zoom Series, presented by the Holyoke Medical Center. The series will occur on Nov. 9 at 10.a.m. and Nov. 16, 18, 23, 30 and Dec. 2 at 11 a.m.

"We have had Holyoke Medical Center here in-person for a diabetes series, and it's important to still offer the same programming virtually to our members," said Casey Conroy, COA Program Coordinator.

The exercise is open to individuals with diabetes, those who care for a person with diabetes and individuals who are seeking more information regarding how to control blood sugar and how to manage medication.

"Once diagnosed, diabetes

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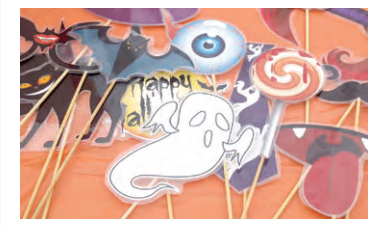

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School district food services hosts 'Boo Bash'

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS PHOTOS BY DALTON ZBIERSKI

During the week prior to Halloween, Chicopee students received a variety of treats from employees of the Food Service Department.

[L to R] Debbie Pelletier and Melissa Pouliot, district staffers, participated in the district's Halloween celebrations last week.

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee School Food Service Department has been in overdrive since COVID-19 pandemic began, and staff members took advantage of the week leading up to Halloween to reconnect with the students they serve.

With traditional trick-or-treating off the table this year, the department served up a new initiative: the four-day "Boo Bash," which took place from Oct. 26-29.

Food Service Director Melanie Wilk and her colleagues knew that Halloween would be different this year and felt compelled to offer kids and teens a reason to celebrate nonetheless.

"We came up with the 'Boo Bash,' which included treat bags for every kid that came to pick up meals," said Wilk. "We had a little photo booth set up for people to take pictures in their costumes and we had some Halloween music going. It was pretty simple, but I think people appreciated just being able to have something to go to and wear their costumes."

The festivity occurred each day at one of the district's four grab-and-go sites. Participating locations included Chicopee Comprehensive High School, Chicopee High School, Stefanik Elementary School and Bowe Elementary School.

Dressed in a variety of costumes, food service employees distributed healthy treats alongside regularly scheduled meals. Marty's Local LLC also donated a special collection of prizes that 12 lucky families enjoyed.

"We had three golden tickets per site," said Wilk. "They were randomly placed in the meal bags, and at each site three winners won a local prize box that was filled with items from one of our partners, which is Marty's Local. It included things like locally made granola, locally milled flower, local honey, local chocolate and some other really good treats."

Beyond Halloween, the Food Service Department has remained flexible throughout the many changes in protocols that they've been subjected to during the pandemic.

The department continues to serve three meals a day to individuals who are at or under the age of 18. One is not required to be a Chicopee student to receive a meal, and no identification or registration is necessary.

"We are serving the kids in school breakfast and lunch every day, and then at the four grab-and-go sites, kids are able to pick up breakfast, lunch and dinner, and we are also serving weekend meals. On Fridays, you pick up three sets of meals to cover the weekend, and the kids in school can also pick up those weekend meals as well," said Wilk.

With the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the meal service is providing an essential service. Approximately 1,500 students, or 20% of the district's student population, are learning in-person and occupy school cafeterias daily.

Inside of the cafeterias, all students sit facing the same direction to limit the possible spread of any virus. All food is covered and served inside a container that students aren't supposed to open until seated.

"We're proceeding in the cafeterias so each lunch block has a certain number of kids, depending on how many kids that cafeteria can fit while sitting six feet apart," said Wilk. "It's kind of different in each school, but the chairs are marked to show where the kids can sit, and the floors are marked with stickers to make sure they're standing six feet apart."

Wilk noted that her staff has not been phased by the changes. She added that their effort has been "impressive and inspiring."

Even longtime employees who have performed the same duties for the past two decades have cooperated with the array of new protocols. Despite the circumstances, morale appears to be high, she said.

"We're being hyper-vigilant about cleanliness and food safety, especially," said Wilk. "I think the staff has been doing a really good job making sure that they're changing their gloves often, which is something we should be doing anyway. They're really putting their certifications to use throughout this pandemic. It's a special group, that's for sure."

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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State awards Chicopee more than $50k to support recycling, waste reduction

BOSTON – The Baker-Polito Administration announced this week $3.2 million in grant funding to 269 municipalities and regional solid waste districts through the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program (SMRP), including Chicopee.

The grants will help communities across the Commonwealth maximize their recycling, composting and waste reduction programs.

"Some of the most important environmental protection work happens every day in communities throughout Massachusetts through local recycling and solid waste programs," said Governor Charlie Baker. "With this assistance, we are ensuring that local officials, residents and small business owners can continue protecting the Commonwealth's neighborhoods and natural resources."

"Under the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, municipalities and solid waste districts are working even harder to improve recycling programs and reduce waste, which has resulted in a seven percent increase in funding over last year," said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito. "With these grants, our administration and our local partners are making a difference in communities across the Commonwealth."

Under SMRP, 227communities qualified for the Recycling Dividends Program (RDP) and will receive payments ranging from $2,450 to $97,500. The RDP recognizes municipalities that have implemented policies and programs proven to maximize materials reuse and recycling, as well as waste reduction. Communities that earn RDP payments must reinvest the funds in their recycling programs for things such as new recycling bins or carts, public education and outreach campaigns, collection of hard-to-recycle items and the establishment of recycling programs in schools, municipal buildings and other public spaces.

"The Baker-Polito Administration is currently working to finalize the Commonwealth's Solid Waste Master Plan for the next decade, which will establish aggressive goals to reduce our waste disposal and increase recycling," said Energy and Environmental Affairs Secretary Kathleen Theoharides. "We are pleased to offer this assistance to help communities cycle resources back into our economy and support local businesses throughout the collection, processing and manufacturing chain."

As part of this SMRP grant round, 42 municipalities that did not apply for or qualify for an RDP payment will be awarded a total of $45,250 for a Small-Scale Initiatives Grant. These population-based grants range from $500 to $2,000 each and help communities purchase modest, but critical recycling materials and outreach tools needed to sustain their existing recycling program or to facilitate new, low-cost initiatives. Each of these SMRP programs are administered by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (MassDEP).

"These new funds give communities the opportunity to make critical investments in their recycling programs, capturing more materials that can be reused, and helping them to reduce their waste disposal costs," said MassDEP Commissioner Martin Suuberg. "This is another example of MassDEP's commitment to building strategic partnerships with our local communities."

The RDP was rolled out in 2014 under MassDEP's Sustainable Materials Recovery Program, which was created by the Green Communities Act of 2008. The Act requires that a portion of the proceeds from the sale of Waste Energy Certificates (WECs) be directed to recycling programs approved by MassDEP. The SMRP initiative has provided more than $41.6 million in recycling programs since 2010.

Twelve municipalities earned a payment of at least $50,000: Cambridge at $97,500; New Bedford at $91,000; Boston at $80,000; Springfield and Worcester at $71,500; Brockton, Lowell, Newton and Quincy earning between $60,000 and $70,000; and Brookline, Chicopee and Lynn earning between $50,000 and $60,000. Nine municipalities are first-time recipients of Recycling Dividends Program funds.

"Massachusetts' commitment to sustainable practices is one of the reasons our quality of life is so high here," said Senate President Karen E. Spilka (D-Ashland). "I am thrilled that so many communities in my district and across the Commonwealth have shown success in their recycling programs and will receive additional resources to continue investing in that success."

"Massachusetts residents are committed to recycling and these grants will go a long way to promote and increase recycling in homes, municipal buildings and industry," said State Senate Minority Leader Bruce Tarr (R-Gloucester). "I am delighted that communities in our area and across the state are being recognized and supported for their efforts."

"Promoting recycling and reducing the amount of waste that ends up in landfills is critical to protecting the environment, not only today but also for future generations," said House Minority Leader Bradley H. Jones, Jr. (R-North Reading). "The Sustainable Materials Recovery Program provides an important funding source to help communities expand their recycling and composting efforts, and I am thrilled to see that three of the towns in my district will share in the latest round of funding awards."

"Increasing sustainable consumer practices and improving recycling programs are important steps in fighting climate change and bettering the health of our planet," said State Representative Smitty Pignatelli (D-Lenox), House Chairman of the Joint Committee on the Environment, Natural Resources, and Agriculture. "The grants awarded by the Sustainable Materials Recovery Program go far in improving recycling systems at the local level, which translate into better overall results at the state level. The six communities in my district that are receiving funds through this program will be well served by the improvements these grants will facilitate."

"To have this grant money come back to the district is great, especially due to the fact that Amesbury and Newburyport are communities that demonstrate the importance of environmental consciousness," said State Representative James Kelcourse (R-Amesbury). "This funding will help these cities continue to lead in establishing creative, new recycling efforts, and to push forward on a path toward a more sustainable future."

See a list of the 269 RDP and Small-Scale grant awards here.

The WEC payments received by MassDEP are deposited into the SMRP Expendable Trust, which is used to fund grants, technical assistance and educational outreach to help communities, businesses and institutions increase recycling and reduce waste.

MassDEP is responsible for ensuring clean air and water, safe management and recycling of solid and hazardous wastes, timely cleanup of hazardous waste sites and spills and the preservation of wetlands and coastal resources.

Nikkia Bates makes Goodwin Dean's List for Spring 2020

EAST HARTFORD – Nikkia Bates has earned a spot on the Goodwin University Dean's List for Spring 2020.

Nikkia, a student from Chicopee, is one of 986 students to make the Dean's List, reserved for those who demonstrate great academic performance.

Dean's List inclusion requires a student to earn a minimum 3.5 GPA, the equivalent of an A- average, during a given academic session. The student must also be enrolled in a minimum of six academic credits to qualify.

Goodwin University congratulates Nikkia on making the Dean's List and demonstrating such a high standard of excellence in the classroom and beyond!

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GUEST COLUMN

What helps voters decide?

By Lee H. Hamilton
Guest columnist

Like any American who cares about this country, I have a deep interest in the results of this election. But as a politician (I think one never really retires from that job), I take a professional interest, as well. Not only for policy or partisan concerns, but because I'm always interested in how people make up their minds on how to vote.

This is an occupational hazard, I think. I was on the ballot 34 times over the course of my career and have spent a lot of time thinking about why people vote as they do. To be sure, we each have our own reasons for where we come down: sometimes based on policy preferences, sometimes because projects we care about will be advanced by voting a certain way, sometimes because there's one issue we care about above all others. Still, I think there's one key factor that doesn't get taken as seriously as it should: likability.

We've all heard this notion expressed as, "Who'd you rather have a beer with?" Or, as a group of Democratic women who were planning to vote for Ronald Reagan once explained, they liked the unfailingly gracious and courteous way he treated his wife, Nancy.

This is not frivolous. I'd argue, in fact, that "likability" is actually a complex decision. We tend, for instance, to like people who are positive, constructive, and forward-looking, and who enunciate or profess a feeling of hope. The Rev. Jesse Jackson used to have a phrase he used,"Keep hope alive." Whatever you thought about his politics, that optimistic, forward-looking view appealed to a lot of people.

We also, whether we know it or not, pay attention to authenticity. It's a favorite word in politics these days, but I think it's always been the case that we want candidates who are not fake and who give you a sense of a genuine personality undergirding their public persona. We know it intuitively, and it plays a role in whether or not we like someone.

There's a policy element to all this, as well, in that we like people who have views and values we can relate to. Or, to put it another way, we don't favor candidates whose values are alien to ours. Nobody fits our likes and dislikes perfectly, but we make judgments on candidates based on whether they more closely align with our values than the other candidate does.

We also judge "likability" by whether or not we think a candidate is going to serve our interests.We evaluate them on whether they hold roughly the same goals and interests we do, and if so,we're much more likely to support them. Which is also why we want our candidates to be reliable and steady in their views. We want officeholders we can trust, not people who jump all over, saying one thing one day and another the next.

I think Americans also prefer candidates who display a basic sense of honesty and decency, who possess a strong moral

See HAMILTON page 11

Letters to the Editor

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Send letters to: The Chicopee Register,
24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069
or email chicopeeregister@turley.com.
The deadline for submissions is Friday at noon.

GUEST COLUMN

An iconic song and an iconic tree commemorate Veterans Day

IN THE GARDEN

Roberta McQuaid
Columnist

As we move closer to Veterans Day, our thoughts turn to the many men and women who serve or have served our country, and how we can best remember and support them. I think back to when I was a young adult and a mother from town tied yellow ribbons all over Ware to support her son who was serving overseas. I also remember the fad of those little yellow magnetic ribbons that folks put on their bumper as a show of solidarity. Did you ever wonder where "tie a yellow ribbon" came from? Read on to learn a bit of trivia about an iconic song and an iconic tree.

We've all heard the 70s song, sung by Tony Orlando and Dawn that popularized the yellow ribbon and made it the folk symbol that it is today. Legend has it that the inspiration for the song did come from a convict, released from prison and on a long bus ride home. His wife was instructed to tie a yellow ribbon around the oak tree in the center of town if she wished to give him a second chance. If he saw it then he knew to get off the bus. Reportedly the tree was covered in yellow ribbons!

In 1981, eight years after the song's initial release, it rose in popularity once again. The yellow ribbon became a symbol of loyalty and patriotism for the 52 American hostages being held in Iraq. "If you still want me, whoa, tie a yellow ribbon 'round the ole oak tree."

I thought it fitting that the oak tree was chosen to bear such an important symbol of our culture. It is a tall, stately tree and its wood is stronger and more durable than that of most trees, yet to me it is humble. At the height of foliage season an oak doesn't shout "look at me!" like other trees do. It simply waits for the hoopla put on by the maples to pass, and then it delights us with a subtle beauty that is equally appealing.

Here are some oak tree statistics: There are some 450 species of oak. Some of them are evergreen, holding onto their leaves throughout the winter months. These oaks are located in the more southern, warmer regions of our country. Even though our oaks are deciduous, it takes a long time for them to completely defoliate. Sometimes it is the next season's emerging leaves that finally push the old ones off. This year it took an October snowfall.

Did you know that oaks get struck by lightning more than any other tree? This is likely due to their height, some topping over 80 feet at maturity.

The oak is a member of the beech or Fagaceae family. One unique feature that the oak has and other members of the family do not is that its nut is carried in a cap. The nut and cap together are called an acorn. Acorns are a valuable food source for wildlife. Wild turkey, deer, larger songbirds and squirrels among others depend on the nut for surviving the winter. One way to tell the difference between species of oak tree is by their acorns. Examine how they wear their "cap." The cap of the white oak is about one-quarter the size of the oblong shaped nut. The red oak, on the other hand, has a squatty, saucer-like cap covering a more globose shaped nut.

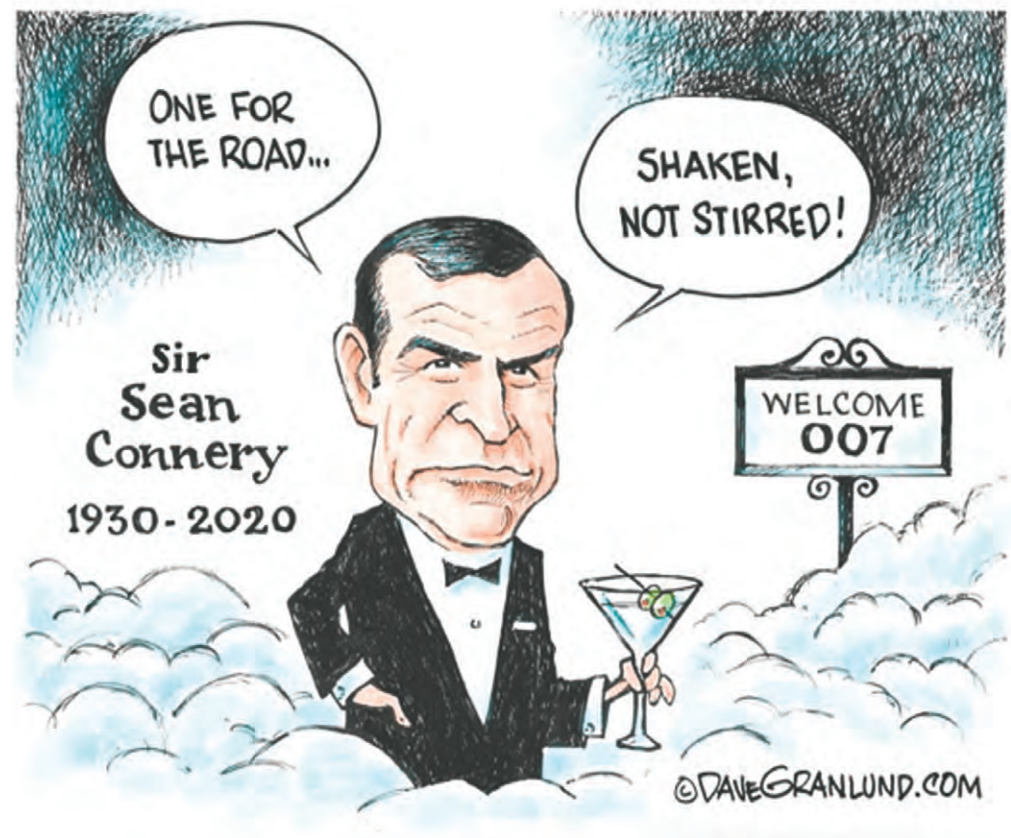
Most oaks tolerate transplanting the best when they are young and small in size. The pin oak is one exception; its shallow, fibrous root system allows it to be transplanted as a larger specimen. For this reason, the pin oak is widely used for home landscaping. It is also highly sought after because of its unique, pyramidal shape: the lowest branches are pendulous, the middle are horizontal and the top are upright.

Did you know that cork is harvested from the bark of a species of oak tree? Yes, the cork oak grows in Spain, Portugal and parts of Northern Africa.

The oak tree can grow to be very old. At the writing of my reference book back in 1983, there was a 400-year-old white oak growing in Maryland by the name of the Wye Oak. It topped off at 95 feet tall, 165 feet wide and eight feet in diameter.

This Veteran's Day, why not tie a yellow ribbon 'round your oak tree or better yet, thank a veteran for his or her service.

Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.



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Arbors Assisted Living partners with Chicopee Senior Center to donate meals

CHICOPEE – Like many holidays this year, Halloween looked a little different.

The Arbors Assisted Living in Chicopee wanted to find a way to give back to their local seniors. On Friday, Oct. 30, The Arbors partnered with the Chicopee Senior Center and donated over 250 meals for local Chicopee seniors.

"We want to thank the Chicopee Senior Center for being there for our local seniors during a time that they need it the most," said Brooke Phillips, marketing director at The Arbors Assisted Living in Chicopee.

Not only did The Arbors donate the meals on Friday, but they also helped pass out the meals while in costume. The Arbors Assisted Living in Chicopee has been in business for almost 20 years, and the team said they love giving back to the community any chance they get.

SUBMITTED BY CHICOPEE_FRESH

On Friday, Oct. 30, Arbors Assisted Living partnered with the Chicopee Senior Center and donated over 250 meals while dressed in costumes.

"Moms WWII Letters" Zoom presentation

CHICOPEE – The Council on Aging will offer the Zoom program "Moms WWII Letters" on Monday, Dec. 14 at 1 p.m.

In May 2017, Corinne Smith found her mother's stash of more than 80 letters from 16 servicemen she had corresponded with in 1944 – 1945. Corinne began to trace the soldiers' family trees with one goal in mind: to return the letters in person to their children.

This presentation links history and genealogy to present-day research and diligence. And it may prompt others to wonder for themselves what treasures lurk in their own old family boxes, and how they can share the information with others.

This program is supported in part by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Mass Cultural Council, a state agency. This Zoom link will be provided on RiverMills Facebook page. If you do not have Facebook, please call RiverMills Center to register and receive the Zoom link.

ELECTION from page 1

bined to account for 2.22% percent of the votes cast in Chicopee.

Eighty-six Chicopee residents voted for a write-in presidential candidate while 131 individuals left the ballot blank, as did Rep. Gov. Charlie Baker, as he admitted to doing following the election.

Dem. U.S. Sen. Edward Markey earned re-election, defeating Rep. candidate Kevin O'Connor in Chicopee by a total of 14,494 votes to 10,247. U.S. Rep. Richard Neal, a Democrat, ran uncontested, as did Dem. Mary Hurley for Governor's Council.

Dem. Sen. Eric Lesser was victorious in Chicopee in the 1st Hampden & Hampshire District after running uncontested, as was Dem. Sen. Adam Gomez of the Hampden District, who also ran uncontested after defeating longtime incumbent Sen. Jim Welch on Sept. 1.

Dem. Rep. Michael J. Finn won uncontested in the 6th Hampden District. Dem. Rep. John C. Velis defeated his challenger, John Francis Cain by a total of 3,311 votes to 1,845 in the 2nd. Hampden & Hampshire District.

In the 7th Hampden District, Rep. James Harrington defeated Dem. Jacob Oliveira in Chicopee by a vote of 1,001 to 812. As of Wednesday morning, it appeared Oliveira was ahead in the ballot totals, according to MassLive.com. Dem. Rep. Joseph Wagner of the 8th Hampden District won uncontested.

In the 9th Hampden District, Dem. Orlando Ramos defeated Rep. challenger Robert Underwood in Chicopee by a total of 943 votes to 355. Dem. Rosemary Saccomani defeated Lori Landers-Carvalho for Register of Probate by a total of 12,681 to 9,287. Saccomani received more ballots in Hampden County overall than Landers-Carvalho, wining the seat.

On "Question 1," which pertained to updating the "right-to-repair" law, allowing car owners to access and share data generated by the operation of the vehicle with independent repair shops, Chicopee voted favorably by a vote of 17,989 to 6,776. The question passed statewide.

Chicopee residents voted against "Question 2," relating to ranked-choice voting for primary and general elections for state executive officials, state legislators, federal congressional representatives and certain county offices by a total of 15,993 votes against compared to 8,287 votes in favor, in line with voters across the state who shot down the initiative.

All results listed pertain directly to voting totals in the city of Chicopee and do not specifically reflect election outcomes in the state of Massachusetts. Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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HALLOWEEN from page 1

Mayor John Vieau, approximately 350 children participated in the drive-through distribution of pre-packaged candy. Several families spent hours in line, waiting their turns on Oct. 31.

"There were families that waited up to two hours in line, and everyone was very patient and cooperative," said organizer Paul Parks. "The outpouring was amazing. It was cold and it was Saturday night. Everyone could have been in their warm houses, but the community came together for the benefit of the youths."

Twelve local businesses and community entities financed the festivity and delivered candy to enthusiastic youngsters, dressed in creative costumes. Safety was prioritized during community event, and no issues were reported, organizers said.

"Besides bringing happiness to the kids, keeping everybody safe was the most important thing," said Parks. "We asked that both the participants that came in the cars and certainly the community vendors that participated wear masks. We set each vendor about 10 feet apart. Everybody was sanitized and gloved."

Joshua Tomlinson, Amelia Tomlinson and Sabrina Tomlinson had a blast on Halloween.

TURLEY PUBLICATIONS SUBMITTED PHOTOS

JMarie Robinson dressed as a witch on Oct. 31.

Prior to Halloween, Vieau released a public statement, discouraging families from door-to-door trick-or-treating this year on account of the COVID-19 pandemic and increasing positive test results across the state. Members of Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease assumed the responsibility of keeping with tradition and making the most out of a difficult situation.

Parks, a member of the Elks, contacted the local chapter of the country-wide organization, which granted permission for the use of its space last Saturday. Parks noted that he chose the location for its "nice, big parking lot that is centrally located."

Volunteers, representing the local businesses and organizations that supported the event, set the foundation for one of Chicopee's most unique Halloween celebrations. Hundreds of children who arrived at the Elks Lodge took the event to the next level.

As Chicopee enters an uncertain winter, it can look back on a socially distant Halloween party that captured the true essence of the city's resilient spirit. Like many others who were there, Parks will not soon forget Oct. 31, 2020.

"I love Halloween because I love seeing the happiness on kids' faces. Normally, I get 50 or 75 kids I get to interact with on Halloween night," said Parks. "Certainly, being able to interact with more kids, knowing that we're keeping them safe, was very fulfilling. It was a good way to try to have a sense of normalcy, and it paid dividends for us because the kids really enjoyed it."

One can learn more about Love, Peace and Kielbasa Grease and future community affairs on the group's Facebook page.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

COA from page 1

causes a huge change in lifestyle, and it can be overwhelming without support. This program helps address how to support someone with diabetes and also how to learn to live a healthy lifestyle," said Conroy.

Also on the November slate is the "Healthy Holiday Eating" Zoom workshop. It's no secret that Thanksgiving and Christmas are around the corner, and the activity scheduled for Nov. 20 at 11a.m. will serve to inform seniors how to become creative in the kitchen and prepare fun, festive and healthy foods.

"Just because you are trying to eat healthy, it doesn't mean that your food doesn't have to taste good," said Conroy.

The COA is also offering a three-part Zoom series that will focus on weight loss and hypnosis. The cost to participate is $25, and payment must be mailed or delivered to the RiverMills Center prior to the first session.

The unique program will occur virtually at 10 a.m. on Nov. 30 and Dec. 7 and 21. Conroy offered insight regarding the series' past success.

"We have had this series in the past and members have expressed that it is quite helpful. The series always fills up," Conroy said, adding there are still spots available for the Zoom series.

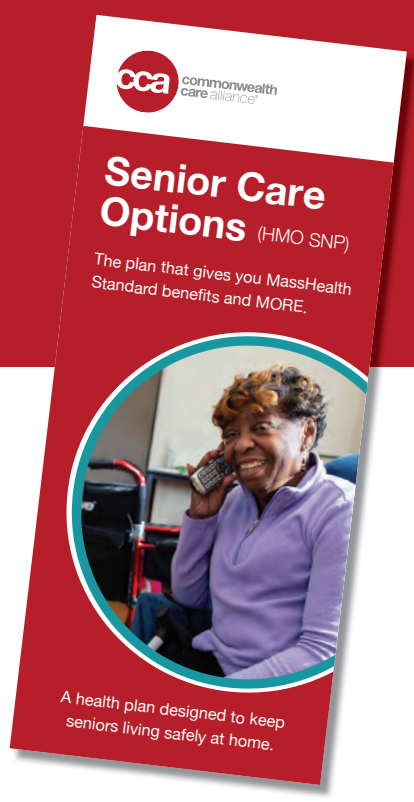
Lastly, the COA is offering a program with a historic twist. On Dec. 14 at 1 p.m., Corrine Smith will lead a program on Zoom titled "Mom's WWII Letters," as she discusses her mother's stash of more than 80 letters from servicemen she corresponded with from 1944 to 1945.

Smith has begun to trace the soldiers' family trees in an effort to return the letters to each soldier's children. The program is supported by a grant from the Chicopee Cultural Council.

"Corrine reached out to the senior center with program information and we decided that it would be an exciting and very interesting presentation to offer," said Conroy.

For more information pertaining to the RiverMills Center and the COA's upcoming programming, one can visit the RiverMills Center's Facebook page.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.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Systemic problems behind Soldiers' Home tragedy

Staff testify to poor conditions, understaffing

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

HOLYOKE – The Soldiers' Home in Holyoke became a house of horrors this past spring only after years of warnings and complaints were ignored. On Oct. 27 and 29, current and former Soldiers' Home staff members testified before a Special Joint Oversight Committee comprised of state senators and representatives.

A disastrous combination of neglect, mismanagement and arrogance resulted in the deaths of 76 veterans who resided at the facility, according to staff. The tragedy resulted from an outbreak of COVID-19 that spread through the building like wildfire, sickening 94 additional living residents and 81 employees.

"They're people that I used to talk to; people that I spent time with and people I looked at as family. To see them going down with no support and no family to say goodbye to; it's something that I'll remember for the rest of my life," said Certified Nursing Assistant Kwesi Ablordeppey, a 20-year employee at the home.

Ablordeppey recalled moving corpses into a body bag and then into a refrigerated unit placed outside of the home. Just as concerning is the fact that Soldiers' Home staffers were denied personal protective equipment at the onset of the outbreak.

"We didn't have enough PPE on the floor for the staff," said Ablordeppey, noting that it had previously been available but mysteriously vanished when needed most.

When Ablordeppey was able to locate PPE, he was scolded and written up by a superior, who questioned the need to don such equipment in front of the veterans. Ablordeppey waved the write-up from the podium at Holyoke Community College during last Tuesday's hearing.

"I got so angry. I said, 'What is going on here?' They knew that there was something going on and they put the masks away," he said.

CNA Andrea Fox, a longtime representative of the Massachusetts Nursing Association, shared similar stories on behalf of her members. Fox noted that many employees chose not to testify at the hearing after feeling bullied and intimated by the facility's administration.

Fox revealed that staff members were forced to endure traumatic conditions, working countless hours of overtime as COVID-19 ravaged one of western Massachusetts' finest institutions. She recalled her haunting conversation with Bennett Walsh, the home's former superintendent, who is now facing 10 criminal charges and decades in jail if convicted.

"When COVID was first discovered in the Soldiers' Home, I attended a monthly labor management meeting with the former superintendent," said Fox. "I had to pull teeth to learn that there was a supply of the N95 respiratory masks available. It was our belief that they would provide the most protection for staff and residents. I asked [Walsh] several times, 'What are you saving them for?' He refused to distribute them."

Throughout the hearings staff shared testimony that appeared suitable for a graphic novel. Their stories were far from fictitious, however; employees endured death firsthand on a scale that was unprecedented.

"As healthcare staff, it is expected to have deaths on your watch. However, the magnitude and velocity of deaths was overwhelming," said Fox. "I spoke with a nurse who described her ride in and seeing a huge refrigerated truck at the entrance. Her description and the image of bodies of veterans on carts alone right outside that building made me almost throw up."

Understaffing

Understaffing was, perhaps, the tragedy's greatest driving force. For years, if not decades, employees at the home lobbied and protested in an admirable but unsuccessful effort to add more colleagues.

Paul Barabani served as superintendent from 2011 until his retirement in 2016. While in his position, Barabani observed the harmful effects of understaffing, as he recalled on Oct. 29.

"There's just not enough time to do it all. It works on them, and that's the morale factor," said Barabani. "I told each employee, 'I want you to be motivated and look forward to coming to work to serve the veterans and go home at the end of each day feeling good that you did serve them,' but they couldn't go home feeling good because there wasn't enough staff to allow that care."

Understaffing was often to blame for pressure ulcers, plaguing veterans who remained in the same position for extended periods of time. Barabani described an administration that often betrayed the trust of employees at the home.

Francisco Urena served as the state's Secretary of Veterans' Affairs from 2015 until resigning on June 24, following his complicity in the mismanagement of the outbreak. Barabani did not mince words when recalling unsatisfactory interactions with Urena.

On one occasion, a Soldiers' Home employee broke down in tears at the end of the work day upon realizing she had not gotten to cutting a veteran's toenails. After consoling his distraught wife, the employee's husband, also a veteran, later contacted Urena's office to inquire about the lack of staffing.

Urena elected not to keep the complaint confidential, instead immediately reporting the employee to the administration at the Soldiers' Home. The following morning, the unknowing female staff member was called to the office and reprimanded for her husband's communication.

Barabani continued last Thursday, testifying further against Urena's lack of concern and consideration regarding understaffing at the home. In November 2018, Barabani arranged a meeting for Soldiers' Home employees to speak to Urena.

"I brought our staff into our conference room and wanted Secretary Urena to hear directly from the staff what their feelings were. He spent more time looking at his phone, texting and not making eye contact; the people who were in that room were insulted and felt that they weren't being listened to," said Barabani.

Barabani's ties to the Holyoke facility run deep. As a child in the 1950s, he often accompanied his parents to the home, where they volunteered in different capacities. Barabani's father, a World War II veteran, would take his last breaths at the home in 2016.

When Barabani considered applying for the open superintendent position in 2010, his father shared advice that Barabani did not take.

"I have to be honest with you; he advised me not to apply for the position. He probably knew more than I did about the real goings on," said Barabani.

The complete hearings from Oct. 20, 22, 27 and 29 can be located at malegislature.gov.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierskI@turley.com.

FMLA from page 1

themselves and their loved ones the same way that everyone else can in the district. Their only choice is go to work and risk a loved one or not get paid."

Demakis referred specifically to FMLA. Due to restraints brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, Chicopee's paraprofessionals are not able to access FMLA benefits.

"These folks no longer have the ability to make up the hours – the 1,250 hours you need to have FLMA [benefits], because a lot of the duties they work to reach those hours are no longer there because of the [pandemic]," said Demakis.

As a fellow teacher, Demakis said she's sickened by the obstacles that confront the district's paraprofessionals. She made it clear that they are performing their job admirably in a small-group format.

"Since we started small groups several years ago, the paras have been instrumental in establishing those kind of relationships to support those social and emotional relationships. They're giving the students and teachers both the ability to get and give more attention to individual learning," said Demakis.

With COVID-19 cases spiking in Chicopee, Demakis feels as though the city's paraprofessionals should receive the medical benefits that the FMLA entails. She doesn't feel as though the request is unreasonable.

"We can't change the effects of COVID," said Demakis. "We know that, but we can show our appreciation and take care of our own, so I'm asking you to please consider changing the requirement for FMLA so that any employee can be eligible for those benefits."

During the Oct. 21 meeting, the CEA formally invited School Committee members to sit in on remote classes. It is Demakis' wish for her members to form a tighter bond with the committee.

"We're trying to build that connection again. I think that the connection between the staff and you all is very important," she said.

No action was taken on Oct. 21, but Ward 9 committee representative Mary Beth Costello sympathized with the district's paraprofessionals and requested that Superintendent Lynn Clark look into the matter and review their performance.

"Mrs. Demakis indicated that paraprofessionals are doing a lot of work within the school district, and I was wondering if the superintendent could give us a report at the next meeting or the meeting after in regards to what their status in the district with COVID and the phase-in plan," said Costello.

Dalton Zbierski is a Staff Writer and can be reached at dzbierski@turley.com.

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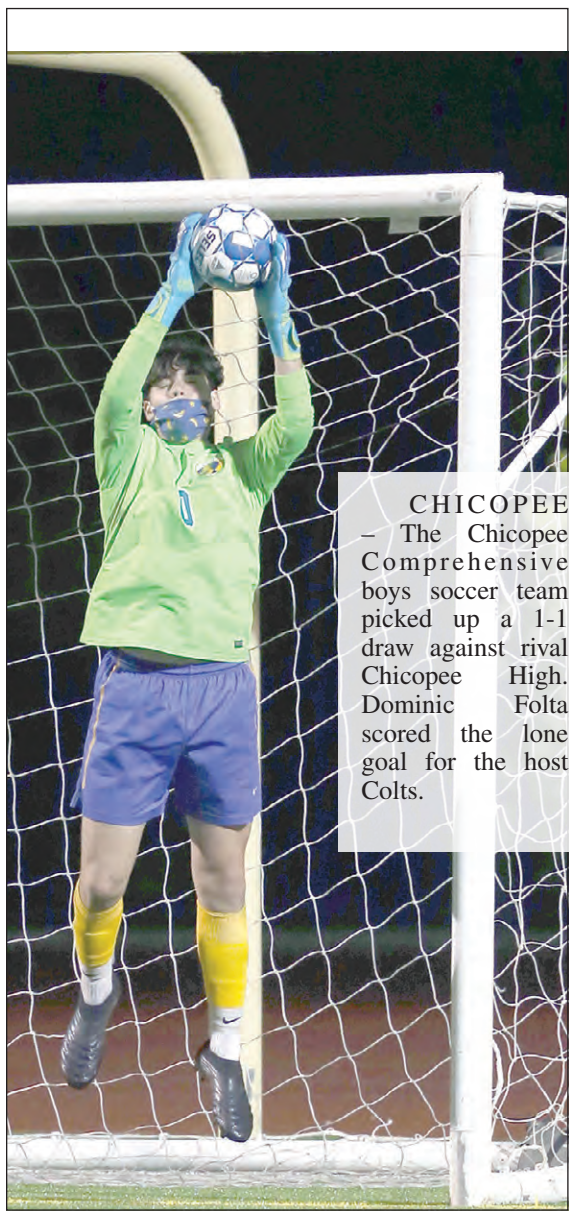


CHICOPEE – The Chicopee Comprehensive boys soccer team picked up a 1-1 draw against rival Chicopee High. Dominic Folta scored the lone goal for the host Colts.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.

Luke Theroux makes a brilliant save for the Colts.

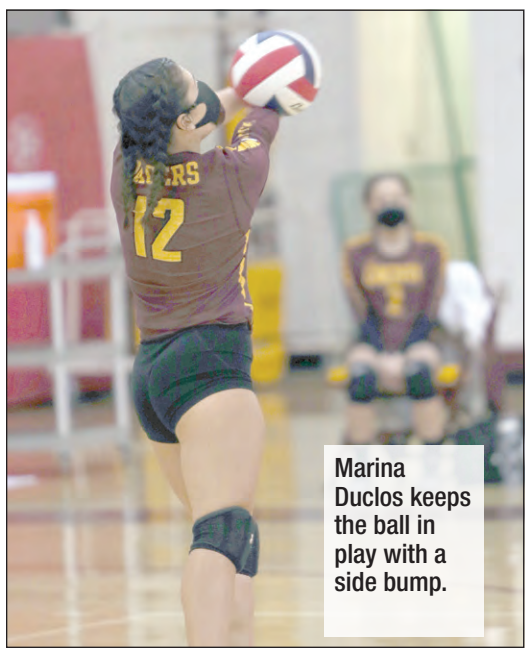
Colts draw with Pacers

makes a juke move for possession.

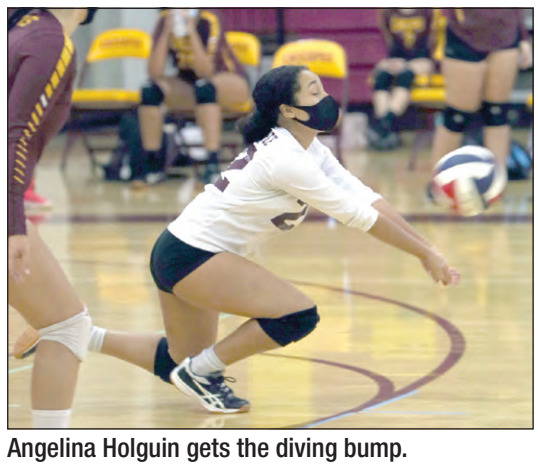
Cameron Boisvere makes a run.

Daudy Guerrero takes a quick touch to a teammate.

Mason Carriveau tries to outrun his opponent.



Marina Duclos keeps the ball in play with a side bump.



Angelina Holguin gets the diving bump.

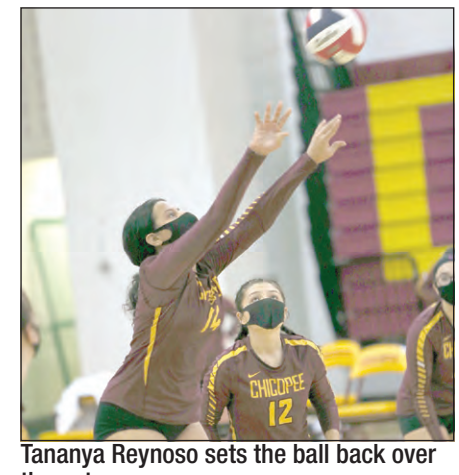
Falcons defeat Pacers

CHICOPEE – The Chicopee High School girls volleyball team was swept 3-0, but put up a very spirited fight against a team from Minnechaug that has been nearly unbeatable the past couple of years. Chicopee was in every set, losing 25-18, 25-23, and 25-21.

PHOTOS BY DAVID HENRY WWW.SWEETDOGPHOTOS.COM

Alanys Torres spikes hard for the Pacers.

Alaina Nadeau gets low for a bump.



Tananya Reynoso sets the ball back over the net.

More 'red' communities as fall season winds down

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – More communities in Western Massachusetts have gone "into the red" during the past week thanks to what government officials are describing as increase in gatherings where people are not observing proper safety protocols.

The actions have filtered down to high school sports as some communities in the red are forced to postpone or cancel action.

Holyoke has fully canceled the remainder of its fall sports season after spending three consecutive weeks labeled as "high-risk" for COVID-19 spreading. Holyoke was in the red for the fourth time last Thursday.

Joining Holyoke, however, are a whole host of communities in the region. Last Thursday, it was revealed Agawam, Westfield, West Springfield, Granby, and Palmer had joined Holyoke with the designation. Chicopee remained in the red for a second straight week. Monson was red last week, and managed to move down a category to the yellow, moderate risk, designation.

Per the results of the latest numbers, Granby and Palmer have temporarily ceased operations for at least a week, and two in the case Granby.

Athletic Director Alison Jordan said Granby will not be able to play high school sports for at least two weeks. Granby fit in a pair of soccer games with South Hadley last Wednesday afternoon prior to the state numbers coming out. Because of daily COVID-19 test numbers coming in, Granby town

See **FALL SPORTS** page 11

Turley Sports joins Instagram

Turley Publications sports department has recently joined Instagram. You can find our account by searching "turleysports." We will regularly feature samples of photos that you will see in our publications on a weekly basis. Please follow and share with your friends and loved ones. We will be featuring photos from all 11 of our sports sections in the coming weeks, but as always, you can see all the photos that appear by subscribing to your local paper or picking up a copy in your community.

SPORTS

Racing will return to Thompson Speedway

THOMPSON, Conn. – The high banks of Connecticut's Thompson Speedway Motorsports Park will roar once again in 2021. American-Canadian Tour (ACT) and Pro All Stars Series (PASS) have announced a six-event schedule for the coming season that features the new Thompson Outlaw Open Modified Series.

The Outlaw Open Series consists of half a dozen high-paying events for Tour-type Modifieds that are expected to attract the top teams in the region. The series begins at the 46th annual Thompson Icebreaker from Friday, April 9 to Sunday, April 11. A 150-lap, $10,000-to-win Outlaw Open Series event will highlight the weekend card.

The stakes get even higher at the season-ending 59th annual Sunoco World Series of Speedway Racing from Friday, October 8 to Sunday, October 10. ACT and PASS have organized the return of the historic Thompson 300, which was last contested in 2005. A $20,000 minimum prize has been posted for the winner of the 300-lap showdown.

In addition, ACT and PASS are selling $50 lap sponsorships for the Thompson 300. All laps that are sold will award the full $50 to the leader of that lap. This means a driver could earn up to $35,000 that weekend.

Four other events are scheduled in-between the Icebreaker and World Series. The additional race dates are Wednesday, June 16; Wednesday, July 7; Wednesday, August 11; and Wednesday, September 8. These dates were chosen to minimize conflict with other tracks and series in the region, allowing teams and fans to attend as many events as they wish.

The Outlaw Open Series features at the Wednesday events will pay at least $5,000-to-win and potentially more. Furthermore, drivers and teams that attempt to qualify for all six events will be eligible for potential provisional starting spots at the Thompson 300.

"We think the Outlaw Open Modified Series is going to be huge for teams and fans," ACT managing partner Cris Michaud said. "The open-event model for the Modifieds has gotten a lot of traction in recent years, and we got to see it first-hand at the most recent World Series. We're especially excited for the return of the Thompsonxf 300. Somebody will be walking away with at least $20,000 that weekend, and it's going to take the intensity to a whole other level."

Thompson Speedway's local divisions will also be part of all six events, including the Sunoco Modifieds, Late Models, Limited Sportsmen/Street Stocks, SK Light Modifieds, and Mini Stocks. Although details are still being finalized, ACT and PASS officials hope to organize special events for the local divisions throughout the summer, giving each class a chance in the spotlight.

A variety of touring series and open shows will also be part of the Icebreaker and World Series weekends. More information regarding all events will be announced over the coming weeks.

"The most important part of all of this is that Thompson oval track racing will continue," PASS owner Tom Mayberry said. "We were very satisfied with how the Thompson 150 and World Series went in 2020, and those events showed the appetite is still there for racing in eastern Connecticut. With those events to build on, we think the excitement for Thompson Speedway is going to be even bigger in 2021.

For more information about the American-Canadian Tour, contact the ACT offices at (802) 244-6963, media@acttour.com, or visit www.acttour.com. You can also get updates on Facebook and Twitter at @ACTTour.

For technical information concerning all PASS divisions, and for media or marketing questions, please contact passracing@roadrunner.com or visit www.proallstarseries.com. Don't forget to "Like" the Pro All Stars Series on Facebook or follow on Twitter @PASSSLM14 to keep up with breaking news as it happens.

For general Thompson Speedway inquires, call (860) 923-2280, email oval@thompsonspeedway.com, or visit www.thompsonspeedway.com. You can follow Thompson Speedway on Facebook and Instagram at @ThompsonSpeedway or on Twitter at @ThompsonSpdwy.

PUBLIC NOTICES

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1865EA
Estate of:
Barbara Jean Burger
Date of Death: 05/09/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by: **Patricia Desorcy** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Patricia Desorcy** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **Without Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/23/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return date, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 26, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

CHICOPEE
CITY COUNCIL
ZONING COMMITTEE
LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under 275-53 (C) (6) for the purpose of waiving the dimensional requirements to construct a residential single family home. Specifically a reduction in frontage from 75" to approximately 55.78" located at 0 Montgomery St. (Parcel ID 230-14). Applicant – Sergey Savonin, 21 West School St., West Springfield, MA 01089.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

*COVID-19: Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the November 18, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: **The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom).** Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by November 16, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
10/30, 11/06/2020

CHICOPEE
CITY COUNCIL
ZONING
COMMITTEE
LEGAL NOTICE

The Zoning Committee of the Chicopee City Council will hold a public hearing **Wednesday, November 18, 2020 at 6:30 PM*** in the Council Chambers, 4th floor, City Hall Annex, 274 Front Street, Chicopee, MA 01013 to discuss the following:

Special Permit application under section 275-72 for the purpose of amending existing special permit by requesting a waiver from provision E (1) of the adult use cannabis ordinance to allow for a drive-up fulfillment window at the existing facility located at 672A Fuller Road. Applicant – Theory Wellness, Inc., Brandon Pollock, 38 Montvale Ave, #210, Stoneham, MA 02180.

The plans/application can be viewed on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications

*COVID-19: Pursuant to the Governor's Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, MGL c. 30A due to the novel Coronavirus outbreak, the November 18, 2020 Zoning Committee hearing shall be available to the public via zoom and in person. As required, alternative public access to this hearing shall be provided in the following manner: **The hearing will be conducted via teleconference (Zoom).** Anyone wishing to participate either in person in the Chambers or remotely shall, provide notice to the Office of the City Council by calling (413) 594-1435 M-F 8:30 AM – 5 PM or by email at aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov by November 16, 2020. Those giving such notice will need to identify the public hearing and provide their name, address and contact phone number to minimize the potential for zoom bombing of the meeting and if attending in person to be screened as required by the City of Chicopee. The hearing will be available for viewing on Spectrum Access Channel 191 or the Chicopee TV website Facebook.com/ChicopeeTV and or https://vimeo.com/chicopeetv.

The petition and materials related to this proposal are on file in the Office of the City Council, Chicopee City Hall, 274 Front Street, (plans and applications are also available on the City Council website https://www.chicopeema.gov/880/Pending-Applications.) You may also call (413) 594-1435 or email aczarniecki@chicopeema.gov.
10/30, 11/06/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20C0163CA
In the matter of:
Jessica Star Isales
also known as
Jessica Star Cruz
CITATION ON PETITION TO CHANGE NAME

A **Petition to Change Name of Adult** has been filed by **Jessica Star Isales also known as Jessica Star Cruz of Chicopee, MA** requesting that the court enter a Decree changing their name to:

Jessica Star Cruz

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any person may appear for purposes of objecting to the petition by filing an appearance at: **Hampden Probate and Family Court before 10:00 a.m. on the return day of 11/20/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance if you object to this proceeding.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 23, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD20P1898EA
Estate of:
David Blanchard
Date of Death: 06/05/2020
CITATION ON PETITION FOR FORMAL ADJUDICATION

To all interested persons:

A Petition for **Formal Adjudication of Intestacy and Appointment of Personal Representative** has been filed by **Michelle Blanchard** of Chicopee, MA requesting that the Court enter a formal Decree and Order and for such other relief as requested in the Petition.

The Petitioner requests that: **Michelle Blanchard** of Chicopee, MA be appointed as Personal Representative(s) of said estate to serve **With Personal Surety** on the bond in **an unsupervised** administration.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the Court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this Court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 12/04/2020**.

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an Affidavit of Objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.

UNSUPERVISED ADMINISTRATION UNDER THE MASSACHUSETTS UNIFORM PROBATE CODE (MUPC)

A Personal Representative appointed under the MUPC in an unsupervised administration is not required to file an inventory or annual accounts with the Court. Persons interested in the estate are entitled to notice regarding the administration directly from the Personal Representative and may petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including the distribution of assets and expenses of administration.

WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland,** First Justice of this Court.
Date: October 30, 2020
Suzanne T. Seguin
Register of Probate
11/06/2020

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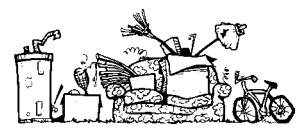

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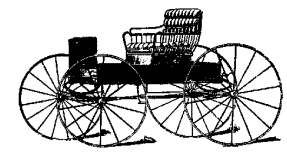

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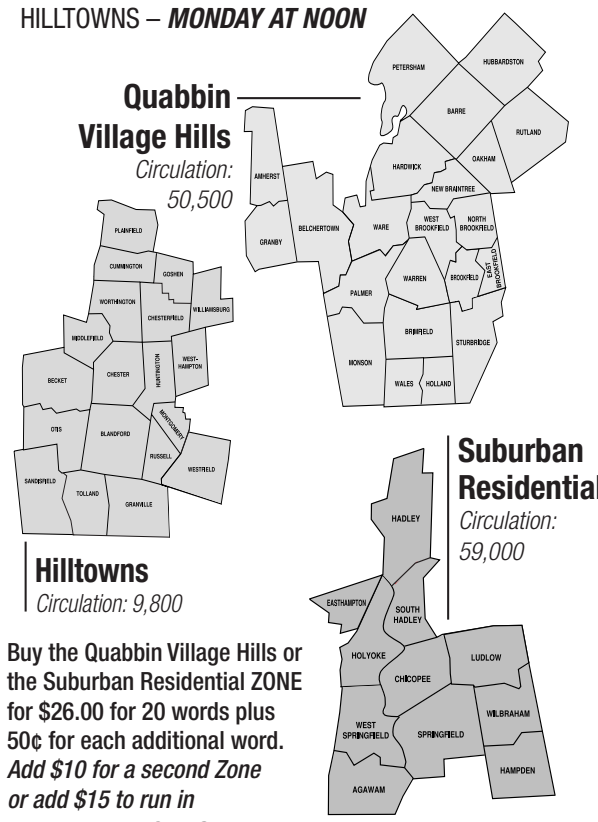
5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20 Base Price $26.00
21 Base Price $26.50	22 Base Price $27.00	23 Base Price $27.50	24 Base Price $28.00
25 Base Price $28.50	26 Base Price $29.00	27 Base Price $29.50	28 Base Price $30.00
29 Base Price $30.50	30 Base Price $31.00	31 Base Price $31.50	32 Base Price $32.00
33 Base Price $32.50	34 Base Price $33.00	35 Base Price $33.50	36 Base Price $34.00
37 Base Price $34.50	38 Base Price $35.00	39 Base Price $35.50	40 Base Price $36.00



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Baker-Polito announce measures to curb rising COVID-19 cases, hospitalizations

Early business closures, revised gatherings, mask orders announced

BOSTON – On Monday, the Baker-Polito Administration announced a series of targeted measures to disrupt the increasing trend of new COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations.

Governor Charlie Baker announced these changes at a time where public health data has indicated that cases are rising, with cases up by 278% and hospitalizations up by 145% since Labor Day. These measures are meant to disrupt rising trends now, so the Commonwealth can keep the economy and schools open for residents and to prevent the need to roll back to Phase I or Phase II of the reopening plan.

All orders and advisories are effective as of Nov. 6 at 12:01 a.m.

New orders and advisories:

Stay At Home Advisory: The Administration issued a revised Stay At Home Advisory to ensure residents avoid unnecessary activities that can lead to increased COVID-19 transmission. The revised Stay At Home Advisory instructs residents to stay home between 10 p.m and 5 a.m. The Advisory allows for activities such as going to work, running critical errands to get groceries and address health needs, and taking a walk.

Early Closure of Businesses and Activities: Governor Baker issued a new executive order that requires the early closure of certain businesses and activities each night at 9:30 p.m. The 9:30 p.m. closure requirement is aligned with the Stay At Home Advisory and together the two new initiatives are designed to further limit activities that could lead to COVID-19 transmission.

Effective Nov. 6, the following businesses and activities must close to the public each day between the hours of 9:30 p.m. and 5 a.m.

Restaurants (in-person dining must cease at 9:30 p.m., although takeout and delivery may continue for food and non-alcoholic beverages, but not alcohol)

Liquor stores and other retail establishments that sell alcohol must cease alcohol sales at 9:30 p.m. (but may continue to sell other products)

Adult-use marijuana sales must cease at 9:30 p.m. (not including medical marijuana)

Indoor & outdoor events

Theaters/movie theaters (including drive-in movie theaters), and performance venues (indoor and outdoor)

Youth and adult amateur sports activities

Golf facilities

Recreational boating and boating businesses

Outdoor recreational experiences

Casinos and horse tracks/simulcast facilities

Driving and flight schools

Zoos, botanical gardens, wildlife reserves, nature centers

Close contact personal services (such as hair and nail salons)

Gyms, Fitness Centers and Health Clubs

Indoor and outdoor pools

Museums/cultural & historical facilities/guided tours

Face Covering Order: Governor Baker also signed an updated order related to face-coverings. The revised order requires all persons to wear face-coverings in all public places, even where they are able to maintain six feet of distance from others. The revised order still allows for an exception for residents who cannot wear a face-covering due to a medical or disabling condition, but it allows employers to require employees to provide proof of such a condition. It also allows schools to require that students participating in in-person learning provide proof of such a medical or disabling condition.

Gatherings Order: Governor Baker also signed an updated order restricting gatherings. The new gatherings order reduces the gathering size limit for gatherings at private residences: indoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 10 people and outdoor gatherings at private residences are limited to 25 people. The limit on gatherings held in public spaces and at event venues (e.g. wedding venues) remains the same. The new order also requires that all gatherings (regardless of size or location) must end and disperse by 9:30 p.m.

The new gatherings order also requires that organizers of gatherings report known positive COVID-19 cases to the local health department in that community and requires organizers to cooperate with contact tracing. The gatherings order authorizes continued enforcement by local health and police departments and specifies that fines for violating the gathering order will be $500 for each person above the limit at a particular gathering.

HAMILTON from page 4

compass, and who show compassion for people who are struggling in their lives. This does not mean we always vote for them—political circumstances or straight-on political calculation can get in the way—but I believe that for most Americans, those qualities matter a great deal.

Clearly, a lot goes into whether or not a candidate is likable, and one voter's gut sense will differ from another's. But I can tell you that right now, candidates for office all over the country are focused on this question.

Campaigning is a matter of going from one group to another, sometimes small, sometimes large and the question always on your mind is how you appeal to this group or person, and how you make yourself likable to them. In the wake of the election, the winners will be patting themselves on the back for having figured it out. And the losers will be left wondering how they might have behaved differently… and been more likable.

Lee Hamilton is a senior advisor for the Indiana University Center on Representative Government; a Distinguished Scholar at the IU Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies; and a Professor of Practice at the IU O'Neill School of Public and Environmental Affairs. He was a member of the U.S. House of Representatives for 34 years.

FALL SPORTS from page 8

officials were aware of the fact the town would soon be labeled high-risk. This is the second time Granby is in the red. It happened prior to the high school season in early September, but only lasted for one week.

Due to local protocols, sports had to be shut down. The same is true in Palmer, where games are postponed through at least Thursday, Nov. 5. Games Friday are still on the schedule in hopes Palmer gets out of the high-risk designation when new numbers are released on Thursday. However, Pathfinder Regional remains playing this week. Pathfinder, which has students in numerous communities in the surrounding area, is located in Palmer.

Agawam, Westfield, and Chicopee continue to play sports despite their high-risk designation.

However, in the case of Chicopee, if the city continues in the red this Thursday, both Chicopee and Chicopee Comprehensive could be forced to shut down their sports at least temporarily.

Agawam remains playing into this week, though their schedule is set to wind down in the next week or so with the final week and a half remaining for makeup games.

The fall season is set to conclude on Nov. 20. There are no postseason tournaments planned, including any league tournament through the PVIAC as of press time.

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